Fear Felt News May Cause Undue Cuts by U.S. Twining Confirms Gloomy Estimates of Soviet Strength in Other Air Categories.

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N A STATEMENT prepared for the Senate Armed Service Committee Air Force Chief of Staff Nathan F. Twining, who is to succeed Adm. Arthur W. Radford as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Aug. 15, confirmed previous gloomy intelligence estimates of present and prospective Soviet air superiority

He made one correction. This was to state that "the estimate today of present Soviet operational heavy bomber strength is lower than our estimate for this same period a year ago."

Air Force officials are happy

production trouble and that the

United States retains its superi-

ority in strategic air-striking force, but they are fearful that

this good news may cause re-

ductions that will put us be-

hind three or four years from

The appropriations for pro-

curement of new aircraft this

planes for three or four years

at which time the Soviet production troubles should have been overcome. CIA Chief May Be Questioned

It is probable that the com-

mittee will question Allen Dul

les, the director of Central In

telligence Agency, about the in-

telligence estimates. It is be lieved he can hardly say much

more than Twining, who de clared: "I want to call your at

tention to the fact that nation

al intelligênce estimates of pret

ent and future Soviet strength

change from year to year as we

year will not produce any air

Although Twining did not say "The clarification by Twining so, other sources state that the of intelligence estimates is re-Russians have been having pro- garded as important. The press duction troubles, just as we had seized on a statement by have had them. In fact, during Secretary of Defense Charles E, one recent period the United Wilson that the United States was scheduled to pro- over-estimated the Soviet Unduce 48 B-52 eight-jet, heavy ion's jet-bomber strength last hombers and in actuality and the probombers and in actuality pro- year, and one news magazine bombers and in actuality pro- year, and one news magazine duced only six. duced only six.

As a result of Soviet produc- Air Force of \$900,000,000 more tion difficulty, according to than the Administration had Twining, "our relative position asked for "a \$900,000,000 bobis better right now than we ble."

Expected it to be a year ago."

Twining and also that "man we have a standard for in intelligence of the standard for that "man we have a standard for the standard for the

Twining said also that "we gence estimates was a straw have reduced our estimates of that everyone in search of econthe rate of Soviet heavy bomber omy was grasping for. The rebuild-up for the next two suit easily could be a siash in power appropriations this years."

There is, however," he con- year that would invite disaster.

tinued, "no change in the level of strength in modern bombers that the Soviet Union is having that we estimate the Soviets could, and probably will, provide for their long-range force in the time period beyond the next two years."

As a result of the acceleration of our own B-52 program hind and the reduction of the estimates of the rate of Soviet a build-up for the next two years, c Twining said: "Adding up the y sum total of strategic striking forces (heavy bombers), the United States Air Force is still considerably stronger than the Soviets.

But, "during the coming years, the Soviets are expected to build up at a faster rate than the United States and we estimate that they could cut our lead appreciably." Here he was still talking about the strategic air force.

Other Estimates Unchanged. . There has been no change in the estimates of all other categories of air power. In other rategories the United States is continue to get better infelli superior only in medium bomb- gence." ers, in all-weather interceptors, in both quantity and quality,

estimates has to attempt to discredit the Symington air power subcommittee findings and conclusions. The revisions, it is said, warrant only a change in one find-ing, namely: "The Soviet now has more heavy jet bombers than the United States and is

This finding was based on the testimony of expert witnesses who had access to national intelligence estimates. This was thought to be the case a year ago and is not, but it easily can be true in a few years if the United States lets its guard

heavy bombers, the four-engined as good, to our B-52, and the

"From this standpoint," Twining said. "the Bear is even more of a threat than the Bison." The Bear is interconfinental without refueling and is the longest range and most powerful turbo-jet airid-ne in existence.

The United States relaine its leadership in the let medium bomber, but, Twining said the lead will diminish as the Badger medium jet bomber

In light, or tactical bombers, Twining declared that "here the Soviets have held and will continue to hold a very great

"The same is true," he mainfained, "in comparable types of day fighters and fighter bombers."

Twining's statement discussed the great advantage our overseas bases give us over the Soviet Union, the superior skill of the Strategic Air Command and its wartime experience, our defensive advantage geographically and the United States progress in missiles of all types.

These very real assets are often passed over by military spokesmen trying to get funds.

producing these bombers at a faster rate.

down, it is argued. Twining's statement was not

all good news. The Russians are producing not one, but two Bison comparable, although not prop-jet Bear. This latter has a far greater range than the Soviet Bison or the United States

Strength in Other Boinbers. comes into the Soviet inventory.

numerical advantage."

**CPYRGHT** 

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